

Take Away – Star Trek: Be a Confident Kid

Text: 1 Peter 2:1-5

Date: 10-10-21



With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and today's sermon.

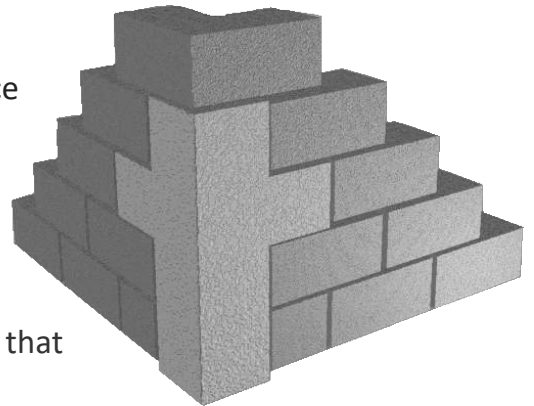
1. Read through the "Christ Stages" as a group found below. As we start this sermon series, initially which stage do you see yourself in currently?
 - **Confidence in Christ:** Here we receive God's Spirit in baptism and begin our great adventure of following Jesus.
 - **Helps in Discipleship:** Here we grow in grace in community, begin practicing spiritual disciplines, and participate in worship, study of God's Word and begin to serve.
 - **Responsibilities in Ministry:** Here we begin to use our gifts to serve God and others. We could be prone to start to rely on our own strength, not God's.
 - **The Wall (Transition):** Due to overworking, spiritual dryness, a faith crisis, or suffering and loss we find ourselves at the wall. This can often be called "The Dark Night of the Soul."
 - **Inner Journey:** Getting stopped at the wall evokes emotional distress. If we allow ourselves to be carried over the wall we enter into a new season of deeper inner intimacy with God.
 - **Spirit-Led Ministry:** We now learn a new way of serving in God's strength - not our own! We work *with...* not *for* God.
 - **Transforming Union:** Life and work are integrated and all we want to do is practice the presence of the Trinity in all we do.
2. What benefit is there to not only knowing where you are at in the Christ Stages, but also where your family and friends may be?
3. The **Cycle of Works** describes the *expectation* that we have to measure up to feel accepted by God and others. What danger is inherent in this cycle?
4. In the **Cycle of Grace** Jesus shows us God's acceptance which gives us energy to use our life for His glory and the benefit of others. What are the outcomes of this grace-filled life?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:1. React to: "Peter's words (God's words) were not just for the first Christian converts. They are for you. Jesus' love changed you. That change should be evident in your actions. Remove, declutter, get rid of regrettable vices."
6. Read 1 Corinthians 3:11, Matthew 16:18, and Isaiah 28:16. Who/what is the ***foundation** of the temple of the Holy Spirit?

7. The purpose of a ***foundation** is to hold up and hold together the structure above it. Contrary to our everyday experience the ground is not quite still and in many cases not totally solid. A house which is just set down on bare earth is more likely to be cracked or damaged over time by natural forces. A properly-built foundation increases the amount of abuse a house structure can take and remain safe for the people inside it.

What does this analogy help us to understand about one of Jesus' roles in the construction of the temple of the Holy Spirit – His church?

8. Read 1 Peter 2: 4 – 6, Isaiah 28:16, Acts 4:11, and Psalm 118: 22 - 24. Some translations use the word ****cornerstone** yet others use *****keystone** or ******capstone**. Who/what do these verses tell us is that stone?

****The cornerstone** is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation, important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure. Pulling a cornerstone out, won't topple a building. That's not what a cornerstone is for. The cornerstone(s) needed to be set square, level and plumb. The rest of the building was constructed from that starting point.



*****A keystone** is the wedge-shaped stone piece at the apex of a masonry vault or arch, which is the final piece placed during construction and locks all the stones into position, allowing the arch to bear weight.



******A capstone** is the final stone put on the top of walls, rock fences to be the "cap" to cover and protect the wall from erosion caused by rainfall but also to beautify the finished product.



9. How does the function of each of the above types of stones: the stone foundation, the cornerstone, keystone, and capstone give us different insights for what roles Jesus serves for His church – those that follow Him and are called by His name?

With your kids...

10. In what ways does knowing that we are in God's family does that give you confidence as one of Jesus' kids?
11. The Bible often refers to Jesus as the Living Stone. What is God trying to tell us about His Son by using this name?

Diving Deeper...

For a deeper dive into God's Word, let's look more closely at 1 Peter 2:1-5. Remember, when Jesus is precious to you, then you are precious to God.

12. How can we not just "go to church" but actually delight in God's Son when we are at church at any gathering?
13. The house of living stones is not built until the living stones come together. What reasons do Christians give for not coming together?
14. Give personal examples of how you could do a better job of "coming together" to build our spiritual house for God's glory, NOT because pastors say you ought to, or to earn God's favor for the week, or to make you feel that you are a better Christian than others...but simply because you delight in God's Son and desire God's Word?

On your own...

For your individual study this week, reflect on and answer each of the following:

15. How did God and people (men) treat the living Stone differently? (2:4, Acts 3:13-15, Acts 10:39-42)
16. In what way are we like living stones? (2:5, 1 Corinthians 15:45)
17. In Verse 2:5, what does Peter say that believers are to be? (Rev 1:6, 5:10, Hebrews 7:26) Have they heard this before? (Exodus 19:6, Isaiah 61:6) And what are they to do?
18. What exactly is a spiritual sacrifice? (2:5, Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 5:1-2, Hebrews 13:15-16, Philippians 1:20)
19. In what way did and does the stone (Christ) cause some people to stumble and fall? Was this destined, i.e., sure to happen? (2:8, Romans 9:33)
20. How could you being disobedient to God cause someone else to stumble?
21. How can you avoid causing others to stumble but to direct them to our Savior?